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SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Lebanon/Turkey/Balkans

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO. [redacted]

SUBJECT Arms Smuggling: Fadil Ghandur

CONFIDENTIAL

DIST. 1 April 1947

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

25X1A6a

ORIGIN [redacted]

25X1X6

See Below

[redacted]

25X1X6 [redacted] 1. Fadil Ghandur of Tripoli, Lebanon, worked with the Germans in smuggling operations during the war. His brother, Nazim Ghandur, now living in Mersin, Turkey, was associated with him. Both men were arrested by the British and were imprisoned during the war at Miah Miah and Rashaya.

25X1X6 [redacted] 2. Fadil Ghandur is today reported to be conducting a trading business with Bulgaria. His sailboats go to Varna and bring back cargoes of wood and leather. He exports arms and munitions from Lebanon, consigned to Bulgarian Communists who in turn send them to Greek Communists, according to report.

25X1X6 [redacted] 3. Information in Lebanese security circles is reported to be that such arms as are for sale locally (the number is limited and the price is high) are thought to be moving in small quantities to Arabs in Palestine. Therefore, it is felt that the number of arms which might be taken to Bulgaria could not be very great, and probably would represent a purely private speculation, if the above report were at all true.

25X1X6 [redacted] 4. Sources in Tripoli were unable to confirm or to disprove the report on Ghandur's activities, but the following information upon him is added:

(a) Fadil Ghandur is a wealthy Tripolitanian from the Mina Quarter. He owns a number of sailboats and, in addition, a large warehouse in the Mina Quarter and a large building in City Square. He deals mainly in wood, and is perhaps the leading importer of wood to Tripoli; much of it comes from Turkey, not from Bulgaria.

(b) Until about six months ago, he used to import arms and ammunition from Turkey. When, however, the French began to dump their material into the Tripolitanian market, the local price of arms came down, and this trade with Turkey ceased.

25X1X6 [redacted] 5. It is reported that Tripoli is currently the clearing place and storage depot for arms destined for Palestine. According to reliable information, smugglers ship arms in the gasoline and fuel tank trucks of the Socony Vacuum [redacted]il Company moving in and out of the Tripoli refinery, and guns are placed [redacted]n the tanks themselves, with the connivance of Syrian and Lebanese drivers.

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